

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A treatment element for the accommodation of dental hand instruments, comprising a base module having connectors for the supply of media to the instruments, ~~furthermore comprising a top module including an instrument holder wherein said top module is interchangeable and that the treatment element treatment element can, by changing the top module, be converted from a type of apparatus having hanging instrument hoses into a whip-arm hose support type of apparatus~~ first and second top modules interchangeably positionable on the base module, and instrument holders, said first top module including a flat receptacle and an instrument holder therefor defines docking bays so that hoses which extend from said connectors to said instruments will hang beneath said base module when the instruments are positioned in said docking bays, and said second top module includes swivel arm hose supports and an instrument panel therefor defines troughs, hoses which extend from said connectors to said instruments being movable by said swivel arms over said base module when the instruments are positioned in said troughs.

2. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 1, wherein each said first and second top modules ~~module~~ can be releasably connected to said base module by hand.

3. (Cancel).

4. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 1, wherein at least said top module is equipped with first top module includes a control panel.

5. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 1, wherein said top module is equipped with an flat receptable portion of said first top module and said instrument holder and the associated instrument holder are separate components forming a separate component.

6.-10. (Cancel).

11. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 1, including an instrument removal detector which can be converted from a state for the detection of instruments having hanging instrument hoses to a state for the detection of instruments having swivel-arm or whip-arm hose supports.

12. (Previously Presented) A treatment element as defined in claim 11, wherein said instrument removal detector can be displaced from said base module to said top module.

13. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 11, wherein a single instrument removal detector is provided on the base

module for use with ~~both types of apparatus~~ said first and second top modules.

14. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 1, wherein said first top module has a frame member and an insert which ~~insert~~ is designed according to the type of apparatus required.

15. (New) A treatment element for the accommodation of dental hand instruments, comprising a base module having connectors for the supply of media to the instruments, furthermore comprising a top module including an instrument holder wherein said top module is interchangeable and that the treatment element can, by changing the top module, be converted from a type of apparatus having hanging instrument hoses into a whip-arm hose support type of apparatus, wherein connectors are disposed on the underside of the base module, wherein said connectors can be shifted from a position for the attachment of a hanging instrument hose to a position for the attachment of a hose from in front.

16. (New) A treatment element as defined in claim 15, wherein said top module can be releasably connected to said base module by hand.

17. (New) A treatment element as defined in claim 15, wherein said top module is equipped with a control panel.

18. (New) A treatment element as defined in claim 15, wherein said top module is equipped with an instrument holder.

19. (New) A treatment element as defined in claim 15, wherein said top module and said instrument holder are adapted for the accommodation of instruments having hanging instrument hoses.

20. (New) A treatment element as defined in claim 19, wherein said top module has a flat receptacle and the instrument holder has docking bays for holding instruments.

21. (New) A treatment element as defined in claim 15, wherein said top module and said instrument holder are adapted to guide the instrument hoses over the treatment element.

22. (New) A treatment element as defined in claim 21, wherein on the top module there are mounted swivel arms or whip arms and that the instrument holder has troughs for the accommodation of the instruments.

23. (New) A treatment element as defined in claim 15, including an instrument removal detector which can be converted from a state for the detection of instruments having hanging instrument hoses to a state for the detection of instruments having swivel-arm or whip-arm hose supports.

24. (New) A treatment element as defined in claim 23, wherein said instrument removal detector can be displaced from said base module to said top module.
25. (New) A treatment element as defined in claim 23, wherein a single instrument removal detector is provided on the base module for use with both types of apparatus.
26. (New) A treatment element as defined in claim 15, wherein said top module has a frame member and an insert which insert is designed according to the type of apparatus required.